

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9234

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15002

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV EG US
SUBJECT: FAHMY DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON--JOINT COMMISSION

REF: STATE 214605

1. AS DEPT AWARE, FAHMY HAS IN PAST BEEN TEPID ON BILLING HIS WASHINGTON TALKS AS JOINT COMMISSION (JC) MEETING. IN TALK WITH HIM THIS MORNING, I MENTIONED THAT GHORBAL HAD RAISED THE MATTER AND INQUIRED ABOUT FONMIN'S CURRENT THINKING. FAHMY INDICATED GHORBAL HAD ALSO SENT MESSAGE TO HIM SUGGESTING DESIRABILITY OF A JC MEETING. FAHMY SAID HIS REPLY INDICATED "NO OBJECTION" SO LONG AS HE COULD LEAVE FOR NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 22.

2. THUS THE BALL WOULD SEEM TO BE IN OUR COURT. FAHMY GAVE ME DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT ACTIVELY SEEKING AN EARLY JC MEETING, BUT WOULD DEFER TO OUR WISHES IF THIS IS WHAT WE WANT. IN THIS SITUATION, WE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER THERE IS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANT VALUE IN BILLING ANY PORTION OF SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH FAHMY AS A JC MEETING.

3. FROM HERE THERE IS NOT A GREAT DEAL OF IMPACT TO BE GAINED FROM SUCH REVIVED JC MEETING, WHICH MIGHT ONLY
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DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ONE FOR SOME TIME. THE JC IS AT BEST A COSMETIC AND THE LACK OF ANY SUCH MEETING HAS IN NO WAY AFFECTED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS OR, FOR THAT MATTER, THE WORK OF THE JWGS. WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT A JC MEETING WOULD GIVE FAHMY THE OPPORTUNITY TO ARGUE THAT THE JWGS MUST CONCENTRATE LESS ON TALK AND MORE ON ACHIEVING

TANGIBLE PROJECTS.

4. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THEREFORE, IT SEEMS TO ME
THAT DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO HAVE JC SHOULD DEPEND
IN LARGE PART ON OUR JUDGEMENT OF WHETHER WE HAVE ANY-
THING TAHT WE WANT TO RAISE IN THAT KIND OF A FORUM.
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